GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:401
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
IMPORT EXPORT OF AGRO PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) number of the agro products allowed for import during the last three years;

(b) the number of the agro products permitted for export and foreign exchange earned during the above period;

(c) whether the export earning from some agro products have been reduced during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to push up export of agro products/coffee; and

(f) the number of export sector working in the country at present, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a): The import of agri products is permitted as per categorization in chapters 6 to 24 of Schedule 1 (Imports) to the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2004-09. Tariff lines pertaining to different agri products fall in the following categories:-

Free	Restricted	Prohibited	STEs
1014	49	20	22

STE`s: State Trading Enterprises

(b): Agri products are freely exportable except as specified in chapters 6 to 24 of Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2004-09.

The volume of agro products (excluding marine products tea, coffee, castor oil, shellac, and cotton including waste) exported during the last three years in dollar terms are given below:

Year	Value in US$ (Million)
2002-03	4589.18
2003-04	5177.81
2004-05	5766.48

(c) & (d): Some of the major agri products whose export values have declined in the last three years are given below:-

Value in US$ million

Items	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Sugar & Molasses	374.44	265.10	33.19
Wheat	363.16	510.29	322.29
Oil meals	306.92	710.61	690.13
Fruits & vegetables	224.95	369.32	361.68
Processed food	359.25	389.00	344.24

Broadly, export earnings are driven by prevailing market conditions including supply and demand factors.

(e): To boost export of agro products including coffee, Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through Commodity Boards/ Authorities and Export Promotion Councils for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control, research and market development.

The medium term export strategy being implemented by the Coffee Board focuses on the shifting of product mix in favour of arabica and to ensure a competitive landed price for Indian coffee by reducing the growing cost. It also \attempts to maintain consistency in the quality of exported coffee and improve awareness about Indian coffee in target markets.

(f) State-wise data is not maintained.